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February 22, 2013

The Honorable Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and concern that beginning on February 25, the processing and distribution center in Tucson, AZ will end processing of outgoing mail.

While I understand the budget constraints facing the Postal Service, the steps being taken to eliminate functions and shut down facilities are having a disproportionate impact on the people who live and operate businesses in Tucson and Southern Arizona who have long depended on the Tucson facility.

As I have warned before, with the loss of outgoing mail processing, my constituents will face longer wait times for mail delivery even within their own communities. These delays in service are not only an issue of convenience, they will greatly cost businesses who rely on the mail to distribute their products and process payments. For customers, which includes seniors and patients waiting for mail order medications, these delays could be life-threatening. Additionally, these new burdens could lead business and industry, which often require fast and certain postage and package service, to reconsider Southern Arizona as an attractive location, hurting our still recovering economy.

Without mail processing, Southern Arizonans also will lose the postmark, an intangible but significant part of our identity. The postmark serves as an important memento for tourists who are attracted to our historic towns like Douglas, Bisbee and Tombstone. Mail traveling from one neighbor to another will now be shipped over 200 miles away for processing. This is simply unreasonable.

I have expressed my complete opposition to the closure of the Tucson facility. These changes to processing services represent just the beginning of the devastating impact that a facility closure will have on my constituents. Eliminating facility functions will lead to the loss of jobs, not only within the postal service but additional jobs in related business and throughout our communities.

Finally, I am troubled by the manner in which these facility changes have been implemented without adequate communication to consumers and businesses who rely on these services and USPS employees who deserve a transparent process. I urge you to maintain outgoing mail processing at the Tucson mail center and to keep the facility open and fully functioning.

Sincerely yours,



Ron Barber
Member of Congress